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The Principal's Address

AT THE PRIZE-GIVING AT QUEEN'S HALL ON JULY 20TH, 1917.

LADY WOLVERTON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The sight of so large a meeting of sympathetic friends, keenly interested in the prosperity of the Academy, greatly encourages our hitherto not unsuccessful endeavours to overcome the all-too numerous obstacles which have to be faced almost daily, while these grim and forbidding times continue to last. Of these prevailing hindrances to normal conditions of progress, you must—in some measure, at least—be aware.

The facts that busy activity in every branch has been maintained and the results of our educative work are thoroughly approved by those appointed to report upon them, speak better than any words of mine for the vitality and mettle of the now ninety-five years old school. Indeed, during the past twelve-months it has been in many respects exceptionally favoured, and some of the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," which are flying about in all directions, have glanced off without leaving much impression. Although there are gaps in our ranks, such dents as are on our armour are not yet deep ones. Despite the disappearance of most of our lads, and the fact that many of our lasses have left to help in the great struggle in their own way, and with equal willingness, there is, you will admit, still a goodly show of young and cheerful faces before you to-day.

True, we have been deprived, gradually, of the excellent services of some of the most successful professors. For such men as Howard Jones, Spencer Dyke, Ernest Read, Cuthbert Whitemore, Cecil Pearson, Ambrose Coviello, Welton Hickin, Stanley Marchant and others, substitutes do not grow on every hedge.

So I thank certain of my colleagues, and several ladies (ex-

students and experienced teachers) who stepped into their places at briefest notice, and who are now efficiently representing absent friends with generous concessions to the more material aspects of the situation.

Perhaps it may be thought that these matters belong more strictly to the domestic economy of the school and hardly for publication, but they helped us to "carry on" during a period which may be fairly described as "ticklish," and deserve fullest

appreciation.

Of one result of compulsory service I may speak confidently and from experience. Whatever may be the present loss of time from his studies to the young Art-student, or the unknown precarious consequences upon his future, discipline and training are undoubtedly making a man of him. I am glad to say that when our students return on leave from abroad—some of them wearing the honours of the field—they invariably take the earliest chance of reporting themselves at their old headquarters at York Gate; and it is a pride as well as a pleasure to witness the amazingly rapid growth of the sapling to the tree. Boys yesterday, they seem so to speak to have suddenly "found themselves," and recognize the fact that though the price is a heavy one to pay, it is worth it all. And it needs no seer to predict the effect upon the virility and self-reliance of our future native art.

Would that this summary could be continued without giving pause to dwell, however briefly, upon certain sorrowful incidents of the year, and to call up the recollection of some familiar figures

which will be seen no more in our midst.

The sudden removal of one of our truest and most active supporters, Sir William Bigge, was indeed a misfortune to an Institution which he served for a number of years. How keenly he devoted himself to its interests and to those of the Associated Board can only be fully known to those who shared these responsibilities with him. We have parted with a wise councillor to whom I was warmly attached and deeply indebted for that timely advice and assistance which was always at our service. A still more recent loss is that of Mr. T. R. Walrond, who occupied an important position on the Board of Education, and whose amiable presence among our Directors is sadly missed.

And let it not be forgotten that among the best-known musicians of eminence who have served on the Committee of Management, was one who passed away at Rome early in the year. For a longer time than need be dwelt on here, I enjoyed the friendship of Sir Paolo Tosti, to whose geniality and proverbial open-heartedness his own countrymen owed so much. And it was only when he finally left for Italy that his useful and

pleasant connection with the Academy was severed.

Less than three weeks ago a most talented ex-student and

loyal professor succumbed after a prolonged illness: young Sydney Blakiston's exceptionally amiable and gentle character, and admirable work as a much-loved teacher endeared him alike to pupil and colleague, by whom he will ever be remembered. Such a loss is all the more deeply felt just at a moment when men of his nature and ability can be ill-spared.

Happily my song may be resumed in a brighter key.

While the subject of the Upper Chamber of our two Governing Bodies is always to be approached in respectful awe, I ought to say that certain important vacancies have recently been filled and that three names have been added to the list of Vice-Presidents. Two of these are of tried friends who have been with us for some time as members of the Board of Directors-Sir Gilbert Greenall and the Hon. Henry B. Portman. In their new capacity the kind interest they have already shown will find additional scope. The third is a newcomer to the Institution whose distinguished name is, no doubt, familiar to you-the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Evans. The inborn love of music common to his race—there is always a considerable number of his young countrymen and countrywomen to be found here—has prompted him to join us and he is surely most welcome. And we greet yet another gentleman who has recently accepted a seat on the same Board, Mr. E. Somerville Tattersall. Mr. Ernest Mathews succeeds the late Sir William Bigge in the Chair of the Associated Board of which he has been long an experienced member. That Office entails much work, constant attendance and strain-particularly at present when our obligations to the Colonies and the Dominions are beset with abnormal difficulties -and the choice has met with the unanimous approval of our colleagues of the Royal College of Music. Representing as Mr. Mathews now does the interests of the two Chartered Schoolsthere are only two-his genial tact and impartiality have already proved to be unquestionable. And our friend Dr. H. W. Richards has become a representative of the R.A.M. on that Board.

The customary course of public appearances in this and the Duke's Hall has proceeded uninterruptedly: nine concerts were given, at which, so far from showing any slackening of energy or deterioration of standard, I venture to think that in some cases

the average merit and quality have been overtopped.

As you know, we have of late years cultivated a closer acquaintance with the Drama, and, thanks to Mr. Acton Bond's enthusiastic efforts in that direction, the performances by his classes have become an important and valued feature in the School. Occupying two evenings in succession, by reason of the double casts, five short comedies were produced: and he also gave a capital performance of Goldsmith's lively classic "She Stoops to Conquer," into the humour of which the female students entered with zest and great spirit. Also, in some instances, with a

-laudably appropriate disregard of their every-day appearance and looks. Temporarily, of course. There are Tony Lumpkins, Diggorys and comic servants, in duplicate, sitting behind me now, but I would be puzzled to recognise and introduce them to you. Opera, still being out of the question, we are indebted to one of our professors for the opportunities he offered to the singers in preparing and conducting three thoroughly successful musical performances on our little stage. The produce was all, so to speak, "home grown." The first was "Margaret" by a mastermusician, Mr. Frederick Corder; next, a pretty operetta by an exstudent, the late Cuthbert Nunn, entitled "The Wooden Bowl." Then quite recently a pastoral-cantata by a talented colleague, Mr. Edward Iles, called "The Vale of Roses." On the same evenings we had a short wordless, gesture play with charming music by another professor, Mr. Felix Swinstead, "Only a Dream." Also several interpolated graceful exhibitions furnished by Mme. La Foy's dancing classes, to music by Eric Coates and York Bowen.

These displays, modest though they be—had to be fitted to exceptional circumstances. The ban on luxurious productions affects us but little: but shortage of expert labour, for instance, deprives us of the desirable proscenium and scenery:—their use might even be risky, perhaps dangerous. Without these aids to illusion the imagination had to be stretched considerably. Mr. Threlfall's solemn organ pipes are as visible in "The Vale of Roses," as in the tap-room of Goldsmith's "Three Jolly Pigeons." But they certainly stimulate the lively fancy of the audience.

Now let it be said that Mr. Beauchamp's admirable services—which mean much time and exertion—were given freely and gratis. And in this Mme. La Foy generously joined him. I understand that she made bushels of roses at home with her own

hands, and lent many of the costumes.

All this marks the prevailing eagerness to keep each specific department alive and the ship sailing merrily along, and those who have helped so ungrudgingly deserve more than common thanks.

As the students are nobly striving to stifle an excusable inquisitiveness with regard to the results of the annual tests which cause a good deal of mental agitation for many weeks, their agonies of suspense shall not be further protracted. Let me remind them of the difference between results and consequences: results have been defined as "what we may expect;" consequences "what we really get."

I also pass a perturbed hour or two over the consideration of a distinction entrusted to my sole judgment. When that time arrives I feel like a combination of Solomon and Daniel, because the winner of the "Dove Prize" must be chosen from a select number of prominent pupils, each of whom may have some

exceptional claim to be weighed. In awarding it to-day, I should add there are several talented students now present who may be encouraged to look forward to receiving it at a future time. Hitherto, the choice has been amply justified by subsequent events, and in the present instance there should be no risk in predicting a fine career for a young Violinist—driven from Belgium at the outbreak of the war—who has proved herself an assiduous and excellent scholar—Miss Gladys Chester.

Another important gift must be mentioned. The trienniallyoffered medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians comes to us in rotation. And I have recommended the name of a student who has certainly distinguished himself by winning the blue ribbon of all musical scholarships. The present "Mendelssohn

Scholar" is known to you as Mr. Philip Levi.

The rule that honours awarded for the first time shall be announced at this function has to be observed. The "Cuthbert Nunn Prize" for composition, founded in memory of our late

student, has been gained by Miss Helen Bidder.

Into the same category should fall the two Gowland Harrison Exhibitions for violinists. The much-discussed *Scholarship* itself, restricted to males, which will ultimately alternate between the Royal College and ourselves had, for obvious reasons, to be withheld until peace reigns again. Meanwhile our share of the Exhibitions was granted to Miss Peggy Cochrane and Miss

Gladys Chester some months ago.

When speaking here last year, I was reluctantly compelled to admit that it was the first occasion upon which I had not the privilege of mentioning some welcome additions to our scholarships, prizes or funds. The interruption has been a brief one and happily I am now enabled to resume these gratifying statements. That this is not quite a "meatless day" you will presently perceive. A new annual prize for Organists, of the approximate value of £10 10s., has been founded by Mrs. Franklyn in memory of her grandson, Second Lieutenant Matthew Phillimore (killed in action in June, 1916). In thanking the lady for her very generous gift, I should say that her thoughts were turned in our direction by an old friend and past student, Mr. William Wooding Starmer.

In all music schools the organ classes have been most sorely hit since the trumpet-stop was drawn. Let us hope to be

permitted to open this competition before long.

A historic portrait of the famous singer Giulia Grisi, from his late father's famous collection, has been most kindly presented to

us by Mr. Malcom Aird.

Uncomfortably sudden surprises have unfortunately been only too frequent of late, and it is therefore so much more pleasant to record an unexpected happening of a different and more agreeable nature.

A legacy has been left to the Academy by a well-wisher who elected to remain personally unknown to us during his lifetime. Generous enthusiasm for his art prompted the late Dr. Walter Stokes of Birmingham to entrust us with a large sum of money to be expended upon various branches of musical education. Until the property has been completely realised, any statement of the precise amount ultimately available would be premature, but I think one may venture to say that it might represent a capital of between £25,000 and £28,000. While gratefully accepting the onerous obligations incident to this notable mark of confidence in the Academy, we must express our thanks for much amiably-given assistance to the sole executor, Mr. Alexander Smith of Birmingham, who now joins with our Chairman, Sir Edward Cooper, in the trusteeship of these large funds.

The working-up of an effective climax is one of the accepted canons of composition, and as I hardly see my way to better this one, it shall be left at that. But, I will add that if there are any now present who may be meditating similar benevolent intentions—more or less—certain frequently expressed views of mine as to the most practical and useful manner of perpetuating their names

are most freely at their disposal.

Besides a liberal recognition of much exceptional ability—and, believe me, there is no lack of that—these awards also represent a large sum of honest work done in those compulsory courses of study prescribed for each and all who enter here, whatever the varying degree of their natural endowments may

happen to be.

Obligatory, because imperatively necessary; in spite of the prevalent airy fallacies which encourage the young artist to romp about, guided chiefly by his own sweet irresponsibility, and, above all, unhampered by so-called academic tradition or systematized training. These are only mischievous invitations to future disappointment, if not total failure. Even the most brilliant talent must be able to use its working-tools deftly and unconsciously. And, for that matter, had we only to deal with the elect and rare few, it could be done in a much smaller establishment—perhaps, a modest little flat might suffice for our needs.

One remembers a great inventor's definition of "Genius." "Ten per cent. inspiration, and the remaining 90 per cent. perspiration." In that terse sentence, Edison summed up all the biographical histories of the most eminent productive and executive artists the world has yet seen. I venture to affirm that in this Institution we are properly familiar with all the most recent phases of modern music, from whatever sources they spring, and are I hope equally able to differentiate between healthy mental creation and meaningless experiment. Sane and serious educative principles must underlie all that we have the

high privilege of doing for the advancement and honour of the Art. Before requesting Lady Wolverton to favour us, I should explain that our President, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, had graciously intimated his willingness to preside here to-day, if his military duties permitted it. That we are deprived of his presence is due to the fact that he is engaged on some or other of these many duties—of more urgent importance to the nation—which he fulfils so constantly and faithfully. Under the circumstances, we are all the more indebted to Lady Wolverton for so amiably consenting—almost at the last moment—to come to our aid.

It may be left to the students to tell her, in their own way, how much it is appreciated.

But I may remind her that there is a sympathetic link

between us.

That her father, the late Earl Dudley was a generous patron of the School—as he was of all Art—we have not forgotten. His bust stood on the staircase of the old house in Tenterden Street when I became a student: and, from many personal points of view, I count it as a privilege to be grateful for, that I am still permitted to see it every day in our new home, after a lapse of fifty-five years.

Mems. about Members.

The sale of the library of the late Dr. W. H. Cummings realised

over £,6,300.

Sir Frederic Cowen asks:-"Why should we not have in the future an art of our own that is no longer merely imitative, but that bears the genuine trade-mark, 'Made in England'? We might, for this, have to go back to simpler forms (there is no harm in that), we might have to place greater reliance on melody instead of cultivating a reluctance for anything approaching a continuous theme of eight bars (there is no harm in that, either), and we might also have to give up some of those discordant sounds which often make the wrong notes in the orchestra seem just as right as the right one. I do not say that this can be done to-day or to-morrow, but the time is now ripe, I think, for the trial to be made. It is too late perhaps for some of us to do this, but if our younger composers, with their undoubted talents and abilities, would have the courage to break away from present influences, and act as pioneers of a new and thoroughly English school, they would certainly not lose any of the esteem in which we already hold them, and would in all circumstances earn the gratitude of posterity."

Dr. Sydney Scott was the organist at the second Southwark Diocesan Plain-song Association Festival at Southwark Cathedral on

June 9th.

Mr. F. Ernest Osborne took the chair at the annual meeting of the Musicians' Prayer Union on June 9th. A concert of works by the late Willie B. Manson was given on July 26th at the Steinway Hall.

On July 21st, Sir Alexander Mackenzie distributed the diplomas at the Royal College of Organists, and delivered an address to the

meeting. Dr. G. J. Bennett also spoke.

The competition for the annual medals at the Tobias Matthay Pianoforte School were held on July 21st, the following awards being made:—Seniors: Gwendoline Warren (silver medal), Eleanor Beechcroft (bronze medal), and Dorothy Hugo (additional medal); Juniors: Jack Isaacs (silver medal), Alma Samuel (bronze medal), and Sybil Barlow (additional medal). The adjudicators were Miss Kennedy-Fraser, Miss Mary Lediard, and Miss Marion Snowden.

Congratulations to Miss Lena Ashwell on the honour of being appointed an officer of the Order of the British Empire. Miss Lena Ashwell has given over 6,000 concerts in France, in Egypt, and in Malta, to say nothing of those in the camps at Aldershot, Canterbury, and on Salisbury Plain, and in numerous hospitals in and round London. In connection with these concerts she has given employment to nearly 400 artists, some of whom might have fared ill during the war but for her efforts.

A new song, "Your Love," by Mr. Eric Coates, was sung at the

Promenade Concert on August 25th.

Dr. Mary Davies was one of the adjudicators at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, held in September.

Congratulations to Mr. John E. West on his marriage to Miss

Marion Este on September 27th.

The sympathies of members will be extended to Mr. W. S. Bambridge on the death in action of his son, Captain W. H. Bambridge.

Miss Dora Bright's "Suite Brétonne" was performed at the

Promenade Concert on September 22nd.

A Stanley Hawley Memorial Concert was given at Wigmore Hall on October 25th, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to publishing some work of a British composer.

A portrait of Dr. G. J. Bennett was given in the Music Student

for August.

Musical Opinion for July contained an article on Mr. Edward German.

The June number of Musical Opinion contained a letter on "The

Ideal Organ," from Mr. York Bowen.

Mr. John B. McEwen's Nocturne for string quartet was produced

on July 7th by the London String Quartet.

On June 23rd, Mr. James Bates lectured at the Duke's Hall on "Teaching Enunciation in Schools." Dr. McNaught occupied the chair.

Best wishes to Sir Alexander Mackenzie upon the recent attainment of his seventieth birthday. Interviewed on the occasion by the *Daily News*, Sir Alexander said:—"I hope we are not again going to be overrun by the Germans as we were. I do not mean to say vindictively that no one should be received, or that youth could omit the classical works of a Bach, Beethoven, or Mozart from its list of music to be studied. But the British musician ought to hold the position of which he has proved himself perfectly worthy to-day."

On July 7th, Mr. Harry Farjeon gave a concert of his own compositions at Steinway Hall, in aid of the British Red Cross,

A portrait of Mr. Reginald Steggall appeared in the *Music Student* for October. The same issue contained an article on "The Registration of Teachers," by Dr. H. W. Richards.

Mr. George Aitken's pupils gave a recital at Wigmore Hall on June 21st, whereby a sum of £51 was raised for St. Dunstan's Hostel.

The Walter Macfarren Pianoforte Scholarship, offered by Mrs. Russell Starr at the Hull College of Music, was awarded on July 25th to Dorothy Robinson. The scholarship entitles to three years' free tuition under Mrs. Starr.

The Tobias Matthay Pianoforte School gave recitals at Wigmore Hall on July 11th, 17th, and 19th. The programmes included compositions by the following Club members:—Messrs. T. A. Matthay, J.

B. McEwen, B. J. Dale, and York Bowen.

Mr. Robert Veevers writes:—"Just a few lines to let you know I am fit and well, and have been awarded the Military Medal in the push of September 20th, going over the top with the first wave and opening lines of communication. It is very different work from singing. Best wishes to you and friends."

Mr. W. E. Whitehouse has edited a new edition of Haydn's Violoncello Concerto in D. It is published by Messrs. Joseph Wil-

liams, Limited.

Mr. Rowsby Woof informs us that Basil F.Taylor got a commission nearly two years ago in the 13th London Regiment, and was six months on and off in the trenches, including a fortnight of the Somme battle. On one occasion his sergeant was shot at his side, and his platoon was thinned out very considerably. He was promoted to first lieutenant and given a staff appointment on the 11th Army Corps "in

recognition of past services."

Under date of June 19th, Lieutenant J. T. Lockyer writes thus to Sir Alexander Mackenzie:-"I so often think of you all at the dear old Academy. I must send you greetings and good wishes for your well-earned vacation. Your letter of October 11th reached me, and I was awfully glad to get it. My experiences here have been interesting and varied since I last wrote 'Finish, Johnny,' with mules when I became a supply officer. A little while at that job, then I was made requisitioning officer to divisional troops. Eventually the division was allowed a branch of the expeditionary force canteens in the field. It fell to my lot to run it, and when I tell you that the business turnover is more like £5,000 per week you will have some idea of the magnitude. It really has been interesting work to study the needs of the troops and get up from Salonica what I thought most suitable for men in the trenches. Ours is the farthest advanced in the country, and that my efforts are appreciated is proved by commands to dine with our major-general and members of the divisional headquarter staff. Last week I was taken right through the two sections of our trenches and shown wonderful views of the Bulgar wire and trenches. The country makes fighting fiendish, and that we have advanced is wonderful on the part of our men, not used to the climate as our enemy is. You read of our big strafe, I expect. Well, the night it started a concert was given by a machine-gun company waiting to go into the line, right under one of the big guns in action. I bought a fiddle in Salonica, and was accompanied only by an occasional burst from the fellow a few hundred yards off. My fiddle has some history. It cost £4, and two days after its arrival the scroll broke off from the A peg upwards. This was mended by an armourerSergeant with a brass plate each side of the scroll. Always when going out to play an orderly, mounted, is sent to guide me and carry the instrument. Two of them have been unnerved and dropped it. First the bridge broke and the post came down. A wheelwright made me a bridge to pattern, and the armourer got the post up. Second drop removed the fingerboard and post again. A saddler glued on the board, and I fixed the post by means of a safety-pin, pair of scissors, and some language describing my opinion of the fellow who dropped it. Occasionally I play at the corps headquarter church, with Eskell organ accompaniment. You see, sir, how music is part of our existence, even under shell-fire. After ten months out here I feel I would very much like to see London again, but that appears to be not likely yet awhile. We are winning the war, so what matters? I hope all goes well with you all. A line to me at 22nd Divisional Train, A.S.C., will always be much appreciated."

Lieutenant Brian Nash writes:—"As I know you like to keep all particulars in the R.A.M. Club Magazine up to date, I thought you would like to know that I am now, and have been since the beginning of this year, a lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps out here. I am attached to the 51st (Highland) Division, and am responsible for the interrogation of prisoners of war we capture. I hope you will continue to send me a copy of the Magazine, as I always read it with great interest. I came across Sydney Rosenbloom out here the other day. He is a private in the Royal Fusiliers, and is pianist to the 58th Divisional Concert Party, appearing as a pierrot every evening!

They give a most excellent show, too."

Miss Louisa H. Grant's violin piece, "Song without Words," was played by Miss Lilian Foulis at Mr. Herbert Gisby's organ recital at

St. Thomas's, Regent Street, W., on November 21st.

Mr. Claude Crossley is giving a series of four pianoforte recitals at Montgomery Hall, Sheffield, on December 11th, January 24th, April 30th, and May 30th.

A memorial service for the late Leonard Hart was held at St. Stephen's, Paddington, on November 17th, Dr. Richards officiating at

the organ.

Club Doings.

A Social Meeting was held at the Academy on July 10th, when there was a large attendance. The following was the programme of music:-Poem for violins and violas (Harry Farjeon); leaders-the Misses Edith Abraham, Evelyn Cooke, Peggy Cochrane, Dorothy Chalmers, and Katie Goldsmith, conducted by the composer. Songs -(a) "Slumber Song to the Madonna" (Morfydd Owen), (b) "Mister Rain" (Morfydd Owen), (c) "Mon joli Bateau" (Gabriel Grovlez), and (d) "Dors, mon p'tit N'amour" (Gabriel Grovlez), Miss Morfydd Owen, accompanied by Miss Ethel Bartlett. Pianoforte—(a) "The Island Spell and (b) "Moon Glade" from "Decorations" (John Ireland), (c) "La Cathédral engloutie" (Debussy), and (d) "Pavane pours une Infante defunte" (Ravel), Miss Lily West. Sonata No. 2 in A minor for violin and piano (John Ireland), allegro-poco lento, quasi adagio-in tempo moderato-con brio, Mr. Philip Cathie and the composer. Folk-songs—(a) "The Sleeping Beauty," (b) "The Maiden's Dream-or Diggin' Taturs," and (c') "Sunday Morn"

(arranged by Frederick Corder), Miss Morfydd Owen. Violin—(a)
"From the North," Nos. 2 and 3 (Mackenzie), and (b) "Rapsodia
Piemontese" (Sinigaglia), Mr. Philip Cathie, accompanied by Miss
Bartlett.

The meeting of Branch B last term took the shape of an outing at Hampton Court on July 12th. The party, numbering about fifty, proceeded by train to Hampton Court, where, after lunch, the afternoon was spent in viewing the palace and the gardens and other amusements. After tea, the members of the party returned home.

Branch B have formed a debating society this term, which has opened proceedings very successfully.

Under the auspices of Branch B, a new journal run by students, with Mr. Edmund Jenkins as editor, under the title of the *Academite*, is to make its appearance. Copies, 6½d. each, can be had on application to Mr. Russell Chester, at the Academy.

Organ Recitals.

Cunningham, Mr. G. D., at Bishopsgate Institute, E.C. (May 8th, 11th, 15th, 18th, 22nd, and 25th); at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, E.C. (May 31st); at St. Katharine Cree, E.C. (June 27th); and at St. Margaret Pattens, E.C. (July 24th).

Gostelow, Mr. Fred, at Liverpool Tranmere Congregational Church (May 17th); at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, E.C. (September 21st); and at Luton Parish Church (October 3rd).

Richards, Dr. H. W., at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, W. (October 27th and November 3rd).

Speer, Mr. Charlton, at the Parish Church, Sutton (March 11th, May 13th, June 24th, July 8th, August 19th, September 23rd, October 14th, and November 11th).

Starmer, Mr. W. W., at St. John's Free Church, Tunbridge Wells (October 10th).

Steggall, Mr. Reginald, at St. John's, Hendon, N.W. (September 27th).

new Music.

Coates, Eric. "Your Love," Song ... (Chappell & Co.) "Dreams," Song ... "Our Little Home," Song Faning, Eaton. "Heart's Blossom," Song (Novello & Co.) German, Edward. "Charming Chloë," Song "Countryman's Chorus," Song (Enoch & Sons) Jenner, Harold. "Measures or Mice," Suite for Pianoforte:-1. "Under the Cupboard Door"; 2. Over the Trap"; 3. "The Brown Mouse finds the

Whiskey"; 4. "Cats and Murder" (Shaftesbury Music Co.)

"Owen, Morfydd.
"For Jeannie's Sake," Song (Chappell & Co.)

Phillips, Montague.
"Betty and Me," Song ,,
"A Dream Love," Song ,,

Obituary.

SYDNEY BLAKISTON.

The death occurred at Ditchling, Sussex, of Sydney Blakiston on July 1st. Born at Southsea in 1870, he went at an early age to Jamaica, where his father held the appointment of Governor of Port Royal. A few years later the family were stricken with vellow fever. after which Mr. Blakiston returned to England, an orphan, at the early age of eight. He was educated at various private schools, and at eighteen studied music under Mr. Oscar Beringer and Dr. Prout, and later under Moszkowski. As a young man he was regarded as a brilliant performer, and appeared in public on many occasions, both in London and the provinces. In 1903 Mr. Blakiston was appointed to the staff of the Brighton School of Music, a position he held until his death. In the same year he became Professor of Pianoforte at the Royal Academy of Music, where some time later the Hon. R.A.M.was conferred upon him. He was also made Examiner to the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M. in 1903, and in this latter capacity he went in 1907 to Canada, to reorganise the system of examinations. As an adjudicator, Mr. Blakiston carried on excellent work, being called upon to judge at Cardiff Festival (1910), Bristol (1912), Olympia (1913), and twice at Stratford. In 1903 he became a member of the Royal Philharmonic Society. He supervised the music at various colleges, including some of the Godolphin and Woodard Schools and the Wantage Community. Mr. Blakiston continued his work as professor and examiner until Christmas, when, owing to failing health, he was ordered to leave London, to rest. He died very suddenly, leaving a widow and a large number of friends and pupils to mourn his loss.

W. H. BAMBRIDGE.

Captain William Herbert Bambridge, the only son of Mr. William Samuel Bambridge, Mus.B., of Marlborough, was killed on August 19th, in the twenty-eighth year of his age. He was educated at Marlborough College, where he was prominent as a cricketer and an all-round athlete. After leaving school he went to Canada, where he engaged in farming for about two-and-a-half years. Possessing a good baritone voice, he returned to England and went to the Royal Academy of Music. For some time afterwards he was a member of Mr. George Edwardes's company at the Adelphi. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the University and Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, and afterwards was given a commission. He went to the front about a year ago, was appointed bombing officer to his battalion, was promoted lieutenant in March last and captain in the following June. The major of his battalion writes:—"His splendid fearlessness may have contributed to his gallant end. His contempt

for danger was only equalled by his eagerness to court it, and his cheerfulness under all circumstances never failed him. We are proud that he belonged to the battalion."—The Musical Times.

W. R. BOTTING.

On September 25th, Lieutenant William Rolph Botting, of the Royal Sussex Regiment, fell in action. The son of the late Dr. Herbert Botting, he was a choir-boy in St. Augustine's Church, Brighton, where his father was organist. He eventually decided upon following a musical career, and became a pupil of Dr. H. W. Richards. At the age of nineteen, at the Royal Academy of Music, he won the "Maud Mary Gooch" Scholarship for organ, and, on his joining the forces, the authorities consented to keep this scholarship open for him until the end of the war. In the same year he was appointed assistant organist to the Brighton Sacred Harmonic Society. In the year following he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, also passing the choir-training examination. He gave up his musical work in order to join the Inns of Court O.T.C. at the age of twenty, and he was gazetted as second lieutenant in March, 1917. With one of the battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment, he was drafted last April to France, where, as events have shown, he was destined to meet the death of a gallant soldier. Captain G. Salter said of Lieutenant Botting:-"His death occurred while leading two platoons of men (sixty strong) into action. Your son had to take up reinforcements to the front line, which he did with great skill. I, as his company commander, have lost a really fine and brave soldier."

LEONARD HART.

We regret to record that on October 18th Lance-corporal Leonard Hart, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, died in France of wounds received in action on October 14th. Born in 1880, he was a chorister at St. Stephen's, Paddington, from 1887 to 1896, studying the organ under the organist, Mr. Russell Lochner, whom he succeeded at the age of sixteen. Hart stayed here until 1912, when he was appointed to St. Saviour's, Paddington, moving after four years to St. Mark's, North Audley Street. Meanwhile, he had entered the Royal Academy of Music in 1897, studying the organ under Dr. Richards, pianoforte with Mr. Charles Reddie, and harmony with Mr. Corder. Here he won the Robert Newman Prize the following year. On leaving, he was elected an Associate. He also took the diploma of F.R.C.O. He was a member of the Club for many years, and had served on the Committee.

On joining the Army he was able to keep somewhat in touch with music, for he was appointed battalion organist, and during his training at Ashford the Vicar was pleased for him to play at parade and other services. He also worked up a small but successful orchestra.

His compositions included a number of songs and ballads, a church service in E flat, and some hymn tunes, chiefly for the children's services at his first church. Mr. Hart was married to a French lady, who, with three young children, is left to mourn his loss. Of bright and cheerful character, Leonard Hart had many friends who will greatly miss him, and whose deepest sympathy will be extended to his widow and family.

Our Alma Mater.

A Chamber Concert was given in the Duke's Hall on May 30th. The following was the programme: - Fantasie for six violas (Benjamin J. Dale), Miss Katie Goldsmith, Miss Dorothy Barrie, Miss Florence Lockwood, Miss Sibvl Goold, Miss Dorothy Chalmers, and Mr. Paul Beard; Impromptu, harp (Fauré), Miss Nancy Morgan; Sonata in F, violoncello (Marcello), Miss Mary Dowson (accompanist, Miss Ethel Kennedy); Songs, "Loveliest of trees" and "April" (Graham Peel), Miss Violet Pulham (accompanist, Mrs. Durell Wickham); Impromptu in F sharp, pianoforte (Chopin), Miss Olive Groves; "Sur le lac" and "Sérénade," violoncello (Godard), Miss Nora Parker (accompanist, Mr. Arthur L. Sandford): Chaconne, pianoforte (Bach-Busoni), Miss Dorothy Munns; "The shadowy hills" and "A memory" (MSS.), violin (Evangeline Livens, student), Miss Peggy Cochrane (accompanist, Miss Evangeline Livens); first movement from Sonata (allegro) (MS.), pianoforte (Doris Shopland, student), Miss Doris Shopland; Song (MS.), "The love of a rose" (Arthur Laurence Sandford), Miss Irene Blackie (accompanist, Mr. Arthur L. Sandford); Ballade in F minor, pianoforte (Chopin), Miss Margaret Portch; Songs, "Queen Mary's song" and "The shepherd's song" (Elgar), Miss Jessie Russell (accompanist, Miss Margaret Fletcher; allegro moderato from String Quartet No. 2, in D (Borodin), Miss Lina Manoukian, Mr. F. P. Garrity, Mr. Alfred de Revghere, and Miss Milly Stanfield.

A performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" was given in the Duke's Hall on June 12th, under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond. Programme played by a small orchestra conducted by Mr. Paul Corder:—Overture, "Black Domino," Auber; Trepak, Wüerst; Pictures from Bohemia, Nos. 1 and 5, Dvorák; Valse, "L'Estudiantina," Waldteufel; Pictures from Bohemia, No. 3, Dvorák. Cast:—Sir Charles Marlow, Miss Phyllis Blaine; Mr. Hardcastle, Miss Margaret Fletcher; Mr. Marlow, Miss May Wood; Mr. Hastings, Miss Islena Cromarty; Tony Lumpkin, Miss Dorice Fordred; Stingo, Miss Florence Randle; Diggory, Miss Gwen James; Roger, Mrs. Jonnice Graham; Little Aminadab, Miss Sylvie Bell; Jeremy, Miss Hellen Martin; Mrs. Hardcastle, Miss Carmen Judah; Miss Hardcastle, Miss Eleanor Street; Miss Neville, Miss Peggy Thompson; Maid, Miss Kitty Bowen; Servants, Miss Beatrice Wilde and Miss Marjorie Larkin; Fiddler, Mr. John Fisher.

The Orchestral Concert was given in Queen's Hall on June 22nd. The following was the programme:—Pianoforte Concerto in C sharp minor (Rimsky-Korsakov), Mr. Jack Beaver; Prélude Religieuse (MS.), orchestra and organ (Edmund T. Jenkins); Song, "Sabbath morn at sea" (Elgar), Miss Bessie Brown Kerr; andante and allegro vivace from Violin Concerto (Mackenzie), Miss Gladys Chester; two songs for little children (MSS.), "An Irish lullaby" and "Pitter, patter" (Morfydd Owen), Miss Morfydd Owen; two dances (MSS.), pianoforte and strings (Arthur L. Sandford), Mr. Leslie England; Song, "The swimmer" (Elgar), Miss Etta Crossman; andante, moderato, and adagio religioso from Violin Concerto (Vieuxtemps), Mr. Alfred de Reyghere; Songs, (a) "Know'st thou the land" (Goring Thomas), Miss Gwladys Partridge, and (b) "Séguidille" ("Carmen")

(Bizet), Miss Edith Bartlett; romanze and allegro molto vivace from Pianoforte Concerto (Paderewski), Miss Renée Adler.

On June 27th and 28th the following programme was given in the Duke's Hall, under the direction of Mr. Henry Beauchamp:—A wordless play, "Only a Dream," music by Felix Swinstead, arranged by Mme. La Foy. Wednesday—Zoraita (peasant girl), Miss Irene Bridgman; The Brigand, Miss May Wood. Thursday—Zoraita (peasant girl), Miss Fédora Turnbull; The Brigand, Miss Florence Randle. Minuet by Eric Coates, for string orchestra. "A Study in Arm Movements," romance, by York Bowen. Wednesday—Miss Margaret Smith. Thursday—Miss Joyce Stirling. In the Meadows, from the Country Side Suite, by Eric Coates, for string orchestra. Waltz, from "Faust" (Gounod); dancer, Miss Eunice McGlenn. A pastoral, "The Vale of Roses," music by Edward Iles, scored for strings by Eric Coates, ballet by Eric Coates. Wednesday—Marie, Miss Norah Turner; Aline, Miss Violet Drummond; Zorah, Miss Gwladys Lloyd. Thursday—Marie, Miss Kathleen Stedham; Aline, Miss Bessie Kerr; Zorah, Miss Edith Williams.

A Chamber Concert was given in the Duke's Hall on July 9th. The following was the programme: -Scherzo and finale from Quintet for pianoforte and strings (Op. 30) (Taneïev), Miss Mary Ramsay, Miss Peggy Cochrane, Miss Doris Greenish, Mr. Fred. Garrity, and Miss Hilda Clarke; "When the sun is setting" and "Before the dawn," pianoforte (Walton O'Donnell), Miss Kathleen Newton; Song, "The captive lark" (Landon Ronald), Miss Sylvia Peake (accompanist, Miss Marjorie Parker); Fantaisie Caprice, violin (Vieuxtemps), Miss Ethel Loder (accompanist, Miss Ethel Kennedy); allegro con brio from Sonata in C, Op. 2, No. 3 (Beethoven), Miss Denise Lassimonne: Fantasie, six violas (B. J. Dale), Miss Katie Goldsmith, Miss Winifred Small, Miss Florence Lockwood, Miss Dorothy Barrie, Miss Dorothy Chalmers, and Mr. Paul Beard; Song, "Le bonheur est chose légère" (Saint-Saëns), Miss Dorothy Wallace-Greene (violin obbligato, Mr. Paul Beard; accompanist, Mr. Arthur L. Sandford); first movement from Quartet in A minor (J. B. McEwen), Mr. Paul Beard, Miss Florence Lockwood, Miss Katie Goldsmith, and Miss Yvonne Morris; six little songs, "Miniatures" (MSS.)—"Daybreak,"
"Little things," "My love comes home," "To a child," "Song of Y Wyddfa," and "Come, come, with me"-(Gladys May Williams, student), Miss Marjorie Perkins (accompanist, Mr. Arthur L. Sandford); "Recueillement" and "Rondo," violoncello (Popper), Miss Milly Stanfield (accompanist, Miss Marjorie Hermon); "Orientale," "Chansonette," and "A la Campagne," oboe and pianoforte (Hamilton Harty), Miss Lucy Vincent and Mr. Edmund T. Jenkins; Songs (MSS.), "Marriage morning" and "When?" (Evangeline Livens, student), Miss Olive Groves (accompanist, Miss Evangeline Livens); Fantasie in F minor, pianoforte (Chopin), Miss Marie de Baecker.

The prize-giving took place at Queen's Hall on July 20th, when the various prizes, etc., were distributed by the Lady Wolverton. Her Ladyship, accompanied by Lady Helen Ward, was received on her arrival by Sir Alexander Mackenzie and a deputation of the governing bodies of the Academy. The proceedings opened with a short programme of music, beginning with Grainger's "Mock Morris"

and Mackenzie's "Zingaresca," played by the String Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Corder. Miss Kate Lucas performed a trumpet solo, "Legend," by Orlando Morgan; and Miss Désirée MacEwan played the Romance and Finale from York Bowen's first Miniature Suite. The female choir, accompanied by the String Orchestra, sang two choruses, "Blow, blow" and "Awake, awake," from "The Vale of Roses," by Edward Iles, Mr. Henry Beauchamp being the conductor. After the Principal's address, given on page 1, the prizes were distributed, at end of which a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Lady Wolverton, on the proposition of Sir Edward Cooper. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

Academy Letter.

The annual prizes were kindly distributed by the Lady Wolverton, who was accompanied by Lady Helen Ward, at Queen's Hall, on Friday, July 20th. During the course of his speech the Principal announced some welcome gifts to the Academy. A new annual prize for organists had been founded by Mrs. Franklyn, in memory of her grandson, Second Lieutenant Matthew Phillimore (killed in action, June, 1916). In thanking the donor for her very generous gift, Sir Alexander said that her thoughts were turned in our direction by an old friend and past student, Mr. William Wooding Starmer. A legacy had been left to the Academy by a well-wisher, the late Dr. Stokes, of Birmingham. The sum of money bequeathed would probably be between £25,000 and £28,000, and was to be expended upon various branches of musical education.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the premature death of Mr. Sydney Blakiston, for many years a professor and examiner in the Academy. Mr. Blakiston had endeared himself to professors and students alike, and his loss will be sorely felt. The funeral took place at St. Margaret's, Ditchling, and among the many tributes sent were wreaths from the professors and students at the Academy. The deepest sympathy will be felt by all for Mrs. Blakiston in her sad loss.

We also much regret to hear of the death in action of W. Rolph Botting, who held the Maud Mary Gooch Scholarship for organ at the time of his joining the colours.

It is also our sad duty to record the death of another ex-student, Leonard Hart, who enlisted about two years ago, and died from wounds on October 18th. He studied at the Academy from 1897-99, and gained the Robert Newman Prize for organ playing.

Hearty congratulations will be extended to Mrs. Mitzakis (the daughter of our Principal) on her husband receiving the Croix de Guerre (avec palmes).

We also congratulate most sincerely Second Lieutenant Roy Russell on obtaining the Military Cross. He returned home wounded a short time ago, but is happily on the high road to complete recovery.

Sir Alexander unveiled a memorial tablet to the late Sir George Clement Martin at a special service in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, October 31st, which was attended by a large number of the deceased organist's friends.

Mr. Herbert Withers is conducting the "Central Orchestra" at Boulogne, several of our old students being members.

The following awards have been made:—Macfarren Scholarship, Harry Alexander Isaacs; Goring Thomas Scholarship, Warwick Braithwaite; Ada Lewis Scholarships, (pianoforte) Olga Thirza Mills; (violin) Irene Hambleton; (violoncello) Hildegard Eleanor Arnold;

Maud Mary Gooch Scholarship, Florence Cook; Campbell Clarke Scholarship, Gladys Dorcas Morgan.

The following have been elected Associates by examination:—Gwen Holloway and Aletta Joubert.

E. L. H.

1R.M. 1Roll of Honour.

Pro Patria.

WILLIAM H. BAMBRIDGE. W. ROLPH BOTTING.

EDWARD H. COLE. GODFREY D. GARDNER.

LEONARD HART. HUBERT KIVER.

WILLIE B. MANSON. W. J. PERRY.

FRANCIS J. THORNS. ARTHUR B. WILKINSON.

The following list is compiled from various sources, and it is earnestly requested that additions and corrections may be forwarded as soon as possible, to the Editor of the Magazine, in order that it may be kept accurate.

to the Editor of the Magazine, in order that it may be kept accura Alexander, Harry, 4th R. Bn. Leicestershire Regt. Alexander, J. H. Appleby, W. S.

Bath, Hubert
Blackall, A. K.
Bolton, Gilbert Pte. Artists' Rifles
Bonner, Russell, Motor Transport, A.S.C.
Bowen, York, Scots Guards
Bradley, F.
Branwell, Hugh

Bretelle, Leonard, A.S.C. Brine, Herbert

Bulkeley-Byng, B.D.

Busby, C.

Butcher, E. E., Pte. Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Carse, Adam, L.-Corpl. 3rd Wiltshire Regt., Signalling Section

Chyte, Solomon, Trooper 1st Life Guards Cole, C. Wilton, Pte. Seaforth Highlanders

Collins, Stuart S.

Coviello, Ambrose, Artists' Rifles

Crowdy, Muriel, V.A.D. Curwen, Patric, A.A. Service

Davies, H.

Drummond, Frederick, R.F.A.

Duncan, C. H. Stuart, Capt. 1st Royal Scots Dyke, Spencer, Sapper A.A.D., R.E. Div. Edwards, Powell Fancourt, Darrell, 2nd Lieut. Artists' Rifles Foote. G. B.

Foulis, Wilfred, Capt. Motor Transport A.S.C.
Gascoigne, Claude, Rifle Brigade
Godfrey, Dan
Grayson, H. H., 2nd Lieut., Royal Marines
Griffiths, Richard D. 2nd Lieut. 7th Batt. Welsh Regt

Harris, Gerald, 2nd Lieut. 21st Manchester Regt. Heming, Percy, Pte. Artists' Rifles Henderson, C. J. H., 2nd Lieut. East Surrey Regt. Hickin, Welton, East Kent Regt. (Buffs) Howard-Jones, Evlyn Hubbard, Leonard, Pte. C. of L. Royal Fusiliers

Jackson, S. B.
Jefferys, Charles, Sea-plane School
Jervis-Read, H. V., Major
Ledger, Gilbert, Artists' Rifles
Leonard, L. V., Pte. 11th R.W. Kent Regt.
Livens, Leo
Lockyer, James T., 2nd Lieut. A.S.C.
Lowe, L. S., 2nd Lieut. 7th Middlesex Regt.

Mackay, Leslie B., Captain 3rd King's Own Royal Lancs. Regt Mackenzie, Donald Maiden, Albert, Pte. Artists' Rifles Maney, A. Marchant, Rifleman Stanley, Rifle Brigade Moore, Irvine

Moore, Irvine Morris, Gordon Murray, J. Ainslie

Nash, Brian A., Lieut. Intelligence Corps, B.E.F. Newton, Alfred, Pte. H.A.C. Infantry Nicholson, Christabel, Chauffeur, 1st Aid Nursing Yeomanry, Calais Oakley, Kenneth, 2nd Lieut. 4th Royal Warwickshire Regt.

Page, Wilfred, 2nd Lieut. 4th Essex Regt.
Pearson, Major Cecil, Heavy Artillery
Penn, L., Pte. R.A.M.C.
Percival, F. M. P., Intelligence Dept. W.O.
Phillips, Montague, Sub-Lieut. R.N.V.R.
Pither, W. S. E.
Pitt, Benno, Pte. Artists' Rifles
Poll, Dudley, Pte. Artists' Rifles
Porkess, Frank B., Pte. 9th C. of L. Queen Victoria's Rifles
Priest, W. B.

Quaife, Alfred, Asst. Paymaster R.N.V.R. Quaife, Arthur, Lieut. R.N.V.R. Auxiliary Patrol Quaife, Edwin, Sub-Lieut. R.N. Motor Boat Transport Service

Ransome, Deane Ratcliffe, H. J. Read, Ernest Regan, Leslie, H.A.C. Robertson, Alec P., 2nd Lt. 5th Hampshire Regt Robinson, G. S.
Robinson, Samuel
Rosenbloom, Sydney, Royal Fusiliers
Ross, C. M. R., Pte. 5th Seaforth Highlanders
Rowlands, H. M.
Rowlands, Manrico, Pte. 38th Welsh Divn., Cyclist Co
Rudling, E. R., 2nd.-Lieut.
Russell, D. G., 2nd Lt. R.F.A.
Russell, Roy, 2nd Lt. R.F.A.

Sainton, Philip, Inns of Court O.T.C.
Sampson, R. H., 2nd Lt. Welsh Regt.
Sanders, Henry, Cpl. Queen Victoria's Rifles
Scott-Baker, H.
Seed, Harper, 2nd Lt. Sherwood Foresters
Shaw, Frederick, Pte. 4th Essex Regt.
Shea, Stephen, Capt. 9th London Regt.
Smith, H. Priestley, A.B., R.N.A.S. A.A. Section
Sowerbutts, J. A., 2nd Lieut.
Stephenson, Morton, Capt. A.S.C.
Symon, B. McCara, Pte. H.A.C. Infantry

Taylor, B. Franklin, 2nd Lt.
Taylor, Laurence S., Artists' Rifles
Tester, Archibald F., Lt. 4th Royal West Kent Regt.
Tregonning, Richard, A.S.C. Remounts
Treherne, Moresby
Tschaikowsky, Urik, A.B., H.M.S. "Saggito"
Veevers, R.

Whitemore, Cuthbert Wilde, Cecil A. G., 2nd Lt. Royal Marine Artillery

The following are from the R.A.M. Staff:-

Bell, A. Alger, B.Q.M.S., 13th London Bty. R.F.A. Bird, A. E., Gunner, H.A.C. Black, Clive, Air Mechanic R.F.C. Bright, F., Royal Engineers
Carr, W. Coppin, C. H., R.G.A. Creighton, J. A., (Sec.) Lt. R.N.V.R.
Easton, W., Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Finch, John, Pte. C. of L. Queen Victoria's Rifles

Hammond, H. R., Air Mechanic R.F.C. Harrison, Albert, Ptc. C. of L. Royal Fusiliers Hearne, J. R., R.F.A. Hunt, Ian, Air Mechanic R.F.C.

Jackson, S., Royal Welsh Fusiliers Kellock, J., Gunner 2nd London Divnl. Am. Col.

McCulloch, H. Moss, Albert, Steward, Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham Renaut, W. E., 2nd Lt. A.A. Section

Renaut, W. E., 2nd Lt. A.A. Secric Robertson, J. R. Roderick, J. Ross, J. H., Gunner, R.G.A. Scofield, George, Naval Ordnance Dept. Southgate, Harold L., Driver, H.A.C. Sullivan, Herbert, Mine Sweeping Wise, Maurice, Driver, H.A.C. Yeatman, Elinor, Nurse, V.A.D. France

The Committee beg to intimate that those members of Branch A, who desire to receive invitations to the meetings of Branch B, should notify the same to Mr. Russell Chester, at the Royal Academy of Music.

Tickets for meetings at the Academy must be obtained beforehand as money for guests' tickets may not be paid at the door. Disregard of this rule may lead to refusal of admittance.

Motices.

- 1.—"The R.A.M. Club Magazine" is published three times a year—about November, February, and May—and is sent gratis to all members on the roll. No copies are sold.
- · 2.—Members are asked kindly to forward to the Editor any brief notices relative to themselves for record in the Magazine.
 - 3.—New Publications by members are chronicled but not reviewed.
- 4.—All notices, &c., relative to the Magazine should be sent to Mr. J. Percy Baker, 12, Longley Road, Tooting Graveney, S.W. 17.